image

No.2

the DEVIANT™

TYNiON iV

HiXSON

OTSMANE-ELHAOU

the DEVIANT

A Christmas Story

Written by.....JAMES TYNION IV

Art by.....JOSHUA HIXSON

Lettering by.....HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

Edited by.....STEVE FOXE

Design by.....TYLER BOSS

Cover A by.....JOUSHUA HIXSON
Cover B by.....JAMES STOKOE
Cover C by.....ALEX ECKMAN-LAWN
Cover D by.....DAVID TALASKI

the DEVIANT created by
JAMES TYNION IV & JOSHUA HIXSON

IMAGE COMICS, INC. • Robert Kirkman: Chief Operating Officer • Erik Larsen: Chief Financial Officer • Todd McFarlane: President Marc Silvestri: Chief Executive Officer • Jim Valentino: Vice President • Eric Stephenson: Publisher / Chief Creative Officer • Nicole Lapalme: Vice President of Finance • Leanna Caunter: Accounting Analyst • Sue Korpela: Accounting & HR Manager • Lorelei Bunjes: Vice President of Digital Strategy • Dirk Wood: Vice President of International Sales & Licensing • Ryan Brewer: International Sales & Licensing Manager • Alex Cox: Director of Direct Market Sales • Chloe Ramos: Book Market & Library Sales Manager Emilio Bautista: Digital Sales Coordinator • Jon Schlaffman: Specialty Sales Coordinator • Kat Salazar: Vice President of PR & Marketing • Deanna Phelps: Marketing Design Manager • Drew Fitzgerald: Marketing Content Associate • Heather Doornink: Vice President of Production • Drew Gill: Art Director • Tricia Ramos: Traffic Manager • Melissa Gifford: Content Manager • Erika Schnatz: Senior Production Artist • Wesley Griffith: Production Artist • Rich Fowlks: Production Artist • IMAGECOMICS.COM

THE DEVIANT #2. December 2023. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: PO BOX 14457, Portland, OR 97293. Copyright © 2023 James Tynion IV & Joshua Hixon. All rights reserved. "THE DEVIANT," its logos, and the likenesses of all characters herein are trademarks of James Tynion IV & Joshua Hixon, unless otherwise noted. "Image" and the Image Comics logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for journalistic or review purposes), without the express written permission of James Tynion IV & Joshua Hixon, or Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, or places, without satirical intent, is coincidental. Printed in the USA. For international rights, contact: foreignlicensing@imagecomics.com.

TINY ONION
SHOPTINYONION.COM

YOU KNOW... YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE THIS COMIC, MICHAEL.

NOT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

I'M NOT SURE. I THINK I DO.

YOU LOOK SO STRESSED.

I AM STRESSED. I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.

I'VE BEEN INTERVIEWED BADLY BEFORE. I NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO A HUNDRED SHITTY COMICS BLOGGERS FOR ALL THE BAD THINGS I'VE SAID IN MY HEAD OVER THE YEARS.

IT ALWAYS DROVE ME CRAZY HOW LIKE, THEY'D NEVER ADJUST HOW THEY WERE ASKING THEIR QUESTIONS, EVEN IF YOU'D ALREADY ANSWERED IT TWO QUESTIONS AGO.

IT JUST FELT LIKE IT WOULD BE EASIER. I THOUGHT I WOULD BE BETTER AT IT, HAVING BEEN ON THE OTHER SIDE.

IS THIS CUTE?

YES.

GOOD.

AUGGGH.

YOU DEFINITELY DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO ANY SHITTY COMICS BLOGGERS. WHY DID YOU THINK TALKING TO A SERIAL KILLER WOULD BE EASY?

I DON'T KNOW. I'M VERY STUPID.

YES.

I LIKE TO THINK THAT I'M...

...I DON'T KNOW. THAT I CAN TALK TO PEOPLE. MAKE THEM OPEN UP AND TALK BACK TO ME HONESTLY.

AW, BABY. YOU JUST NEED SOME WARMING UP. YOU GET FLUSTERED.

I CAN BE CHARMING, RIGHT, DEREK? NOT ALL THE TIME. BUT LIKE... SOMETIMES?

SOMETIMES YOU CAN BE ***VERY*** CHARMING.

IS IT CRAZY THAT MAYBE NEXT TIME I GO IN, I WANT TO HAVE A COUPLE OF DRINKS FIRST? OR WOULD THAT LIKE... SCRAMBLE ME UP A BIT?

I THINK YOU NEED TO ANSWER HIS QUESTION. WHAT'S THE STORY? WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

I MEAN. I KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT. I JUST DON'T KNOW IF IT'S WHAT ***HE*** WANTS IT TO BE ABOUT.

RANDALL HASN'T CHANGED HIS STORY IN ALMOST FIFTY YEARS. HE SAYS HE'S INNOCENT, AND MAYBE HE IS.

HE HOPES THE GAY WRITER IS GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO TELLS THE STORY HE WANTS. THE ONE HE'S WANTED PEOPLE TO TELL.

BUT THIS COMIC... IT'S NOT REALLY ABOUT HIM.

IT'S ABOUT ME.

DEVIL

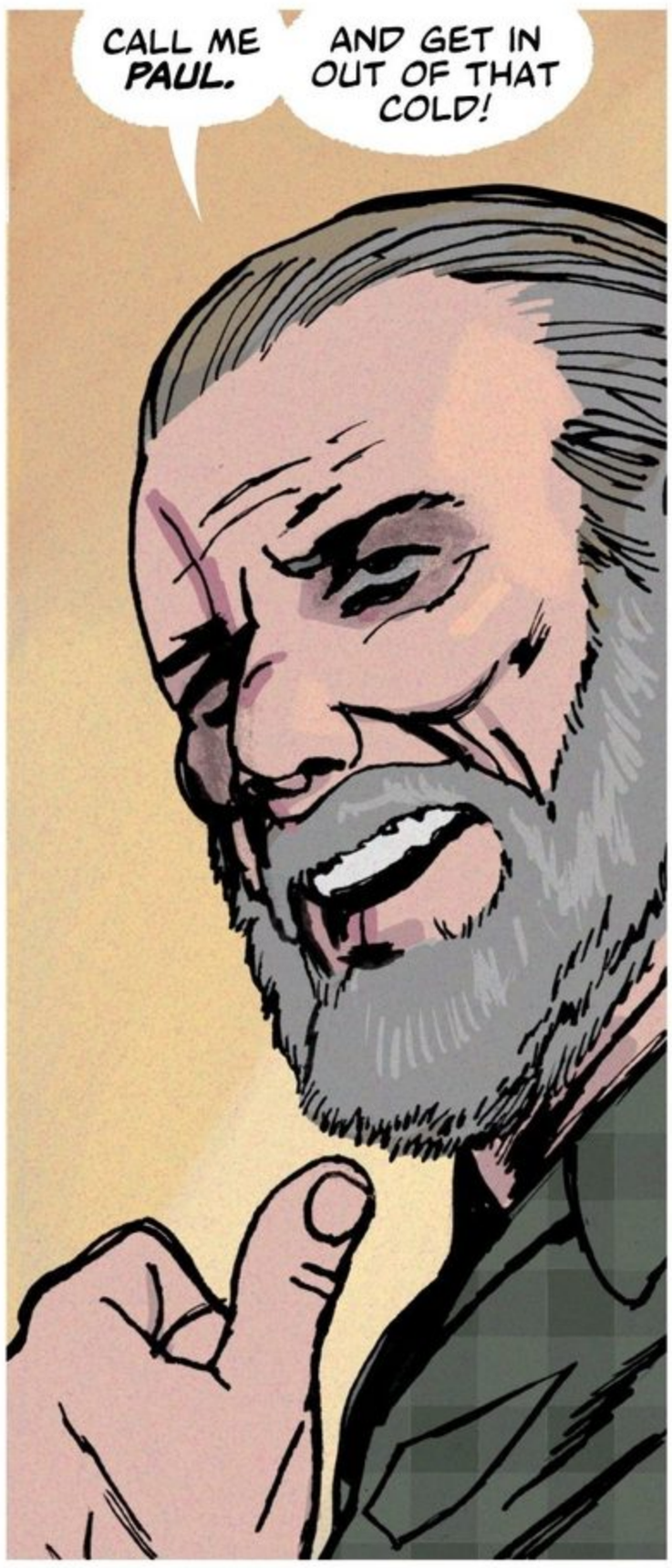
A Graphic Story By
JAMES TYNION IV and JOSHUA HIXSON
with HASSAN OSMAN ELHAOU

MILWAUKEE

DING DONG

OH, GOOD! YOU'RE HERE.

HELLO, SIR. THANKS SO MUCH FOR MEETING ME.


CALL ME PAUL.
AND GET IN OUT OF THAT COLD!

HUN, IT'S THE COMIC-BOOK KID. REMIND ME YOUR NAME.

MICHAEL.

MICHAEL, THE COMIC-BOOK ARTIST, IS IN THE HOUSE!

THAT'S NICE, DEAR. DOES HE WANT ANYTHING TO DRINK?!

YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?

OH, I'M OKAY FOR NOW.

HE'S FINE, HUN!

I'LL PUT SOME COFFEE ON!

THERE'S NO STOPPING HER. SHE'LL BE FEEDING YOU IF YOU'RE NOT QUICK ABOUT GETTING OUT OF HERE.

WE'LL SIT IN THE DEN. COME IN, ***COME IN!***

YOU HAVE A REALLY LOVELY HOME.

YOU'RE SURPRISED.

HM?

THAT WE DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS. I BET YOU THOUGHT I'D NEVER WANT TO SEE THE STUFF.

LET'S JUST SAY I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU.

I DON'T LIKE RUNNING FROM STUFF. I PREFER TO RUN RIGHT AT IT.

ACTUALLY, THAT'S BULLSHIT. THAT'S MY HARD-ASS ANSWER FROM WHEN I WAS STILL A YOUNG ENOUGH MAN TO CARE ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING.

I USED TO...
...WELL, I USED TO REMEMBER WHAT I SAW IN THE BARN EVERY TIME I SAW A TREE.

IT WAS KELLY'S IDEA TO MAKE SURE THAT, WHEN I LOOK AT A CHRISTMAS TREE, I DON'T SEE A COUPLE OF DEAD BOYS STRUNG UP IN LIGHTS.

SHE WANTED ME TO THINK OF THIS HOUSE. OUR BOYS, WHO ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE. OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER.

SHE SAVED MY LIFE.

ARE YOU MARRIED, SON?

NO, SIR. BUT I'VE BEEN WITH MY PARTNER FOR ABOUT SEVEN YEARS...

CHRIST, ***SEVEN YEARS!*** KELLY WOULD HAVE HAD ME MURDERED IF I'D WAITED LONGER THAN SIX MONTHS! AND I DIDN'T!

COURSE I HAD MY FACE CARVED UP BY FAG SANTA, SO THE SECOND I HAD A PRETTY LADY ON THE LINE, I KNEW I HAD TO LOCK THAT SHIT DOWN.

WHAT'S THE HOLD-UP?

DEREK AND I JUST AREN'T READY FOR THAT SORT OF THING.

WE TALK ABOUT IT, THOUGH.

DEREK.

DEREK.

HERE YOU GO, DEAR. I PUT IN A LITTLE MILK AND SUGAR, I HOPE THAT'S NO BOTHER. IT'S HOW WE DRINK IT AND I DIDN'T THINK.

MA
AME
GR
AG

THANK YOU, MA'AM. THAT'S FINE.

WE SHOULD GET TO IT, KELLS. DON'T WANT TO KEEP THE YOUNG MAN HERE ALL DAY.

LET ME GET OUT MY COMPUTER. I JUST WANT TO RECORD THIS, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
FINE.

THIS SOME KIND OF GOTCHA THING?

I'M SORRY?

ARE YOU COMING IN WITH SOME KIND OF...

...WHAT SORT OF COMIC BOOK ARE YOU WRITING, SON?

SO, YOU'VE MET MY GOOD FRIEND, PAUL.

I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO HIT ME.

YOU'RE LUCKY HE DIDN'T. HE BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF ME ONCE A FEW DECADES AGO AND I CAN STILL TASTE THE BLOOD IN MY MOUTH EVERY NOW AND THEN.

HERE'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER ABOUT PAUL. SOME LUNATIC IN A SANTA COSTUME HIT HIM SQUARE IN THE FACE WITH AN AXE FIFTY YEARS AGO.

BUT THEY DIDN'T HIT HIM HARD ENOUGH.

HAH.

SORRY. IS THAT TOO DARK FOR YOU?

NO.

SO, WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF IT? MEETING MY OLD FRIEND.

I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO HAVE MY COFFEE. SO, NOT MUCH. BUT I HAVE THE ORIGINAL COURT TRANSCRIPTS.

I THINK I CAN GET AWAY WITH NOT TALKING TO HIM AGAIN, AND STILL DO THE STORY JUSTICE.

THE STORY.

IF I KEEP TALKING TO YOU, AT LEAST.

YEAH. IF YOU KEEP TALKING TO ME.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

WHAT?

I USED TO LOVE CHRISTMAS. THERE'S VERY LITTLE ELEGANT ABOUT THIS WORLD, BUT CHRISTMAS WAS ALWAYS ELEGANT.

THERE WAS A PAGEANTRY TO IT, AND PEOPLE DIDN'T LOOK DOWN ON YOU IF YOU CARED ABOUT THAT KIND OF PAGEANTRY.

I ALWAYS LIKED IT.

I LIKE IT JUST FINE, I GUESS. I'M NOT VERY CLOSE WITH MY FAMILY. WE'RE NOT ON BAD TERMS OR ANYTHING. I JUST...

THERE'S A DISTANCE, AND YOU DON'T CARE MUCH ABOUT CROSSING IT.

IT'S NOT EVEN THAT I DON'T CARE. I JUST... DON'T, I GUESS.

DID YOU REALLY JUST COME HERE TO TELL ME YOU WERE CHASED OFF BY AN OLD MAN WHO'S STILL SCARED OF SISSIES?

NO.

THEN WHY DID YOU COME HERE, MICHAEL?

I'M NOT HERE TO WRITE THE STORY YOU WANT ME TO WRITE, RANDALL. THE STORY WHERE I PROVE YOU'RE INNOCENT. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE THAT STORY.

OKAY.

YOU'RE BEING HONEST NOW, AT LEAST.

BUT I STILL THOUGHT I COULD TALK TO YOU. THIS IS SELF-INDULGENT... BUT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHEN I WAS A KID. WHEN I FIRST HEARD THIS STORY.

ABOUT... SEEING MYSELF IN IT.

WELL, I'D PREFER THE VERSION WHERE YOU'D GET ME OFF THE HOOK. BUT IF THAT'S NOT ON THE TABLE...

I LIKE THAT. IT'S NOVEL, AT LEAST.

MAYBE A LITTLE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS.

YOU'VE SEEN SILENCE OF THE LAMBS?

DARLING, ***PLEASE.*** I'VE BEEN IN THIS LITTLE HELL LONGER THAN I LIVED OUTSIDE OF IT. I DON'T CAUSE TROUBLE.

I MAKE MY LITTLE JOKES, MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH, AND MOSTLY THEY LEAVE THE OLD MAN ALONE. AND A FEW OF THE GUARDS LIKE THE FACT THAT I'M A MINOR CELEBRITY.

THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE ACCESS TO, LIKE PARTICULARLY VIOLENT LITERATURE OR FILMS...

BUT THEY SHOW THEM TO ME ANYWAY IF I ASK ABOUT THEM.

I WISH THERE WAS A GOOD MOVIE ABOUT ME. EVEN IF THEY MADE ME A KILLER.

THERE WAS A TV MINISERIES THAT WAS HALFWAY DECENT. THEY GOT THIS PRISSY LITTLE ACTOR FROM THE RADIO THERAPIST SHOW TO PLAY ME.

THEY NEVER PLAY WITH DOUBT THOUGH. AND THE LETTERS I GET... HALF OF THE LETTERS ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT ME TO HAVE DONE IT.

SOMETIMES I'LL EVEN PLAY THE PART AS I RESPOND. JUST TO KEEP FROM GETTING BORED.

BUT IF WE'RE DOING ALL THAT, I DON'T JUST WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR LIFE NOW, TOO. DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?

I'D BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY BOYFRIEND. HIS NAME'S DEREK.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO HAVE A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIFE.

I...

...I DON'T MEAN TO GET EMOTIONAL.

BUT I APPRECIATE THAT A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU SEES YOURSELF IN ME.

YOU SEEM LIKE A KIND PERSON. MAYBE A LITTLE COLD. BUT KIND.

THAT'S NOT WHAT PEOPLE USUALLY SEE IN ME.

CHICAGO

YOU SHOULD, UH...

...BRACE YOURSELF. I THINK.

JUST SHOW ME.

IT'S WEIRD IS ALL I'M SAYING. WE UNPLUGGED IT BECAUSE OF THE SMELL...

PLUG IT BACK IN.

SIR?

I WANT TO SEE IT AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE SEEN.

OKAY THEN. PLUGGING IT BACK IN.

YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS?

THE OFFICE SAID YOU FOUND SOMETHING THAT'D BUMP THIS UP TO FEDERAL JURISDICTION?

UH, YEAH... JUST OVER HERE.

IT'S GOT HIS BLOOD ON IT...

...AND FROM WHAT WE CAN TELL, OUR GUY HAS NO CONNECTION TO THIS MAN.

DRIVER LICENSE
REGULAR

WISCONSIN

MICHAEL SCHMITZ

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE.

I'LL SEND YOU A NICE PRESENT FROM MILWAUKEE.

EXIT

TO BE CONTINUED

WORLDTR33™

:// tyhion
> blanco
> bellaire
> bidikar

THE END OF THE
WORLD COMES
BACK ONLINE
APRIL 2023_
IN STORES NOW

FOLLOW #IMAGECOMICS

IMAGECOMICS.COM

WORLDTR33 is ™ & © 2023 JAMES TYNION IV & FERNANDO BLANCO. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

image®

DON'T RUN FROM THE TRUTH

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRUTH

2 3 +

™

JAMES TYNION IV & MARTIN SIMMONDS

"Blends fact and fiction, history and conspiracy to make something fresh, fun and totally true."

SCOTT SNYDER

AVAILABLE NOW

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRUTH is TM & © 2023 James Tynion IV & Martin Simmonds. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

image

IMAGECOMICS.COM

#IMAGECOMICS

That bump in the night just got a little louder...

From Eisner Award-winning writer James Tynion IV & fan-favorite artist Gavin Fullerton

AVAILABLE NOW!

THE CLOSET™

IMAGECOMICS.COM #IMAGECOMICS

The Closet is TM & © 2023 James Tynion IV and Gavin Fullerton. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

RAZORBLADES™

BOOK ONE

Over 350 pages of horror from some of the most cutting-edge names in the genre.

James Tynion IV
Steve Foxe
Ram V
Marguerite Bennett
Alex Paknadel
Ricardo Lopez Ortiz
Trevor Henderson
John J. Pearson
Tyler Boss
Jenna Cha
& Others

Available Now

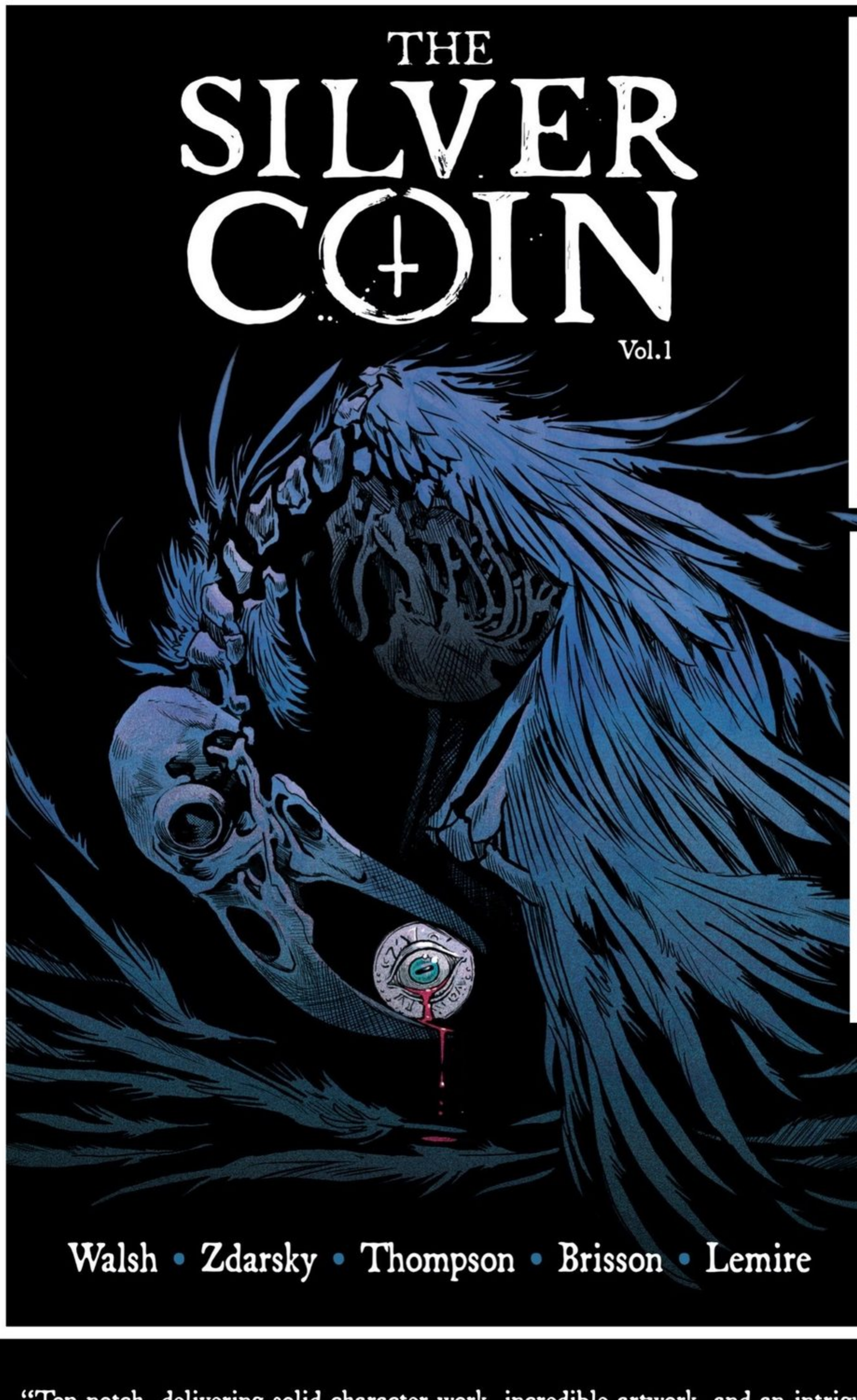
#IMAGECOMICS

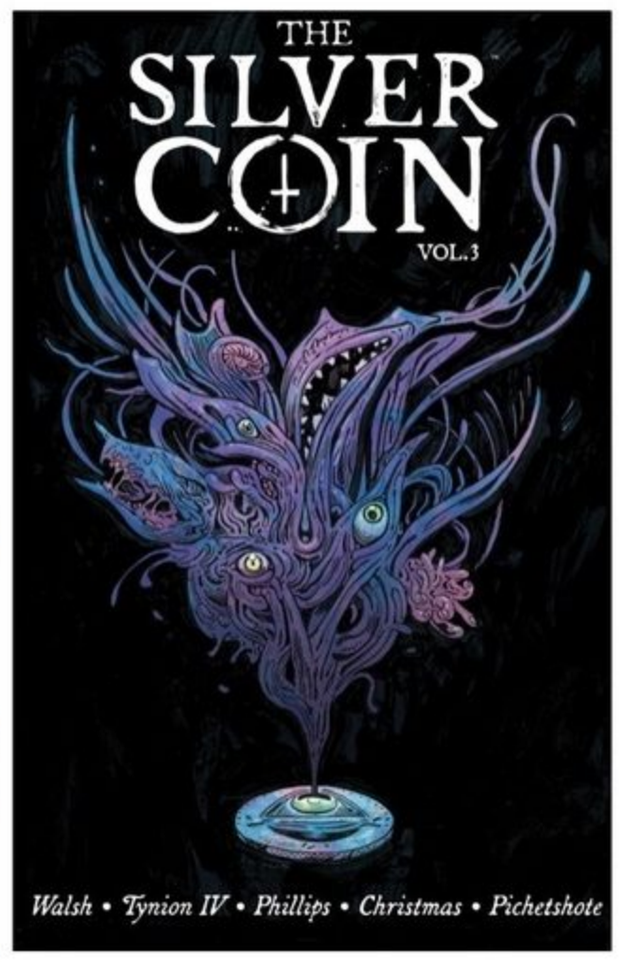
IMAGECOMICS.COM

Razorblades is ™ & © 2023 James Tynion IV & Steve Foxe. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

image

Eisner-winning artist Michael Walsh teams up with Chip Zdarsky, Kelly Thompson, Ed Brisson, and Jeff Lemire for this revolutionary horror anthology...





...and the series continues with Joshua Williamson, Ram V, Matthew Rosenberg, Vita Ayala, James Tynion IV, Stephanie Phillips, Johnnie Christmas, and Pornsak Pichetshote in volumes two and three.

"Top notch, delivering solid character work, incredible artwork, and an intriguing story." —*Horror DNA*

"Takes classic tropes and injects them with a punk rock energy." —*AIPT*

"Dark and twisted and hits on all the right tones." —*Monkeys Fighting Robots*

"An engrossing tale." —*ComicBook.com*

image®

VOL. 1 - 3 AVAILABLE NOW

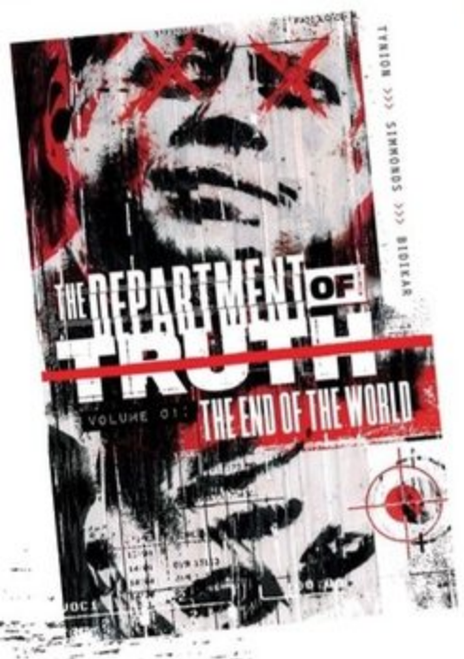
#imagecomics imagecomics.com

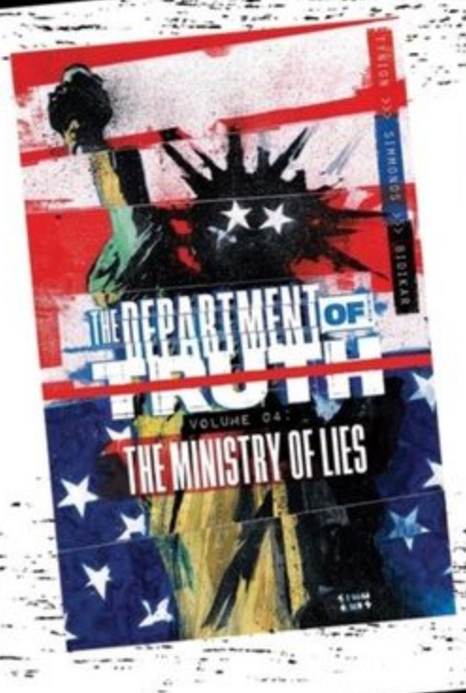
THE SILVER COIN is ™ & © 2023 Michael Walsh. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

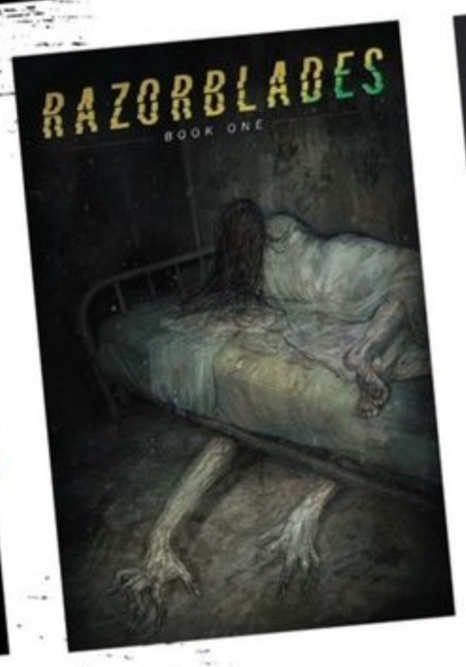
MUST-READ COMICS FROM THE MIND OF

JAMES TYNION IV

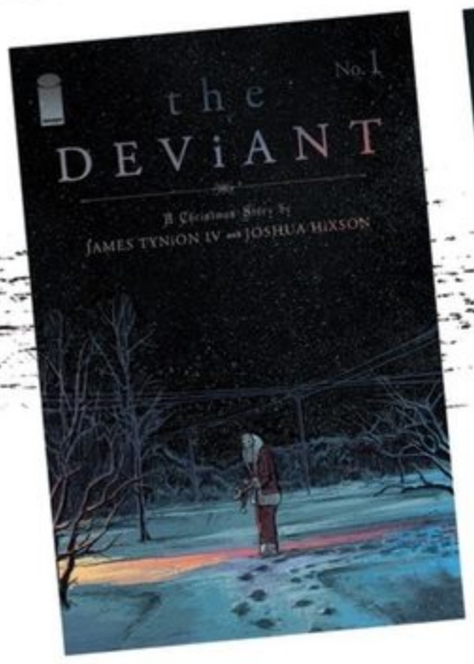
IN STORES NOW







IN STORES THIS WINTER



image

TINY ONION

SHOPTINYONION.COM

IMAGECOMICS.COM

FOLLOW #IMAGECOMICS

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRUTH is ™ & © 2023 James Tynion IV & Martin Simmonds. THE CLOSET is ™ & © 2023 James Tynion IV & Gavin Fullerton. RAZORBLADES: THE HORROR MAGAZINE, VOL. 1 is ™ & © 2023 James Tynion IV & Steve Foxe. THE SILVER COIN, VOL. 3. is ™ & © 2023 Michael Walsh, Chip Zdarsky, Kelly Thompson, Ed Brisson & Jeff Lemire. WORLDTR33 is ™ & © 2023 James Tynion IV & Fernando Blanco. THE DEVIANT is ™ & © 2023 James Tynion IV & Joshua Hixson. Tiny Onion logo is © 2023 Tiny Onion, Inc. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

SPAWN CROSSOVER GEIGER
RECKLESS EAST OF WEST I KILL GIANTS
THE WALKING DEAD I HATE FAIRYLAND
THE DEPARTMENT OF TRUTH SEX CRIMINALS
KILLADELPHIA BATTLE CHASERS
SAVAGE DRAGON
PRETTY DEADLY BLACK SCIENCE THE WICKED + THE DIVINE
MONSTRESS CHEW SWEET PAPRIKA
GIDEON FALLS
MOONSTRUCK UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY SKYWARD OBLIVION SONG
DESCENDER PAPER GIRLS THE OLD GUARD
INVINCIBLE WANTED BITTER ROOT
STRAY DOGS WHAT'S THE FURTHEST PLACE FROM HERE SNOTGIRL
SAGA KICK-ASS WITCHBLADE ISOLA
INKBLOT
GOD COUNTRY
CRIMINAL DIE
FIRE POWER NOCTERRA
HAPPY!
JUPITER'S LEGACY
LITTLE BIRD RAT QUEENS
RADIANT BLACK
ICE CREAM MAN
DECORUM BITCH PLANET
DEADLY CLASS
MIDDLEWEST

IMAGE CLASSICS

image

A BOOK FOR EVERY READER.

IMAGECOMICS.COM

RADIANT BLACK @ Higgans, Costa, Chen, Lafuente & Carey. All rights reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

NEXT MONTH

COVER ART BY JOSHUA HIXSON

RATED M / MATURE

ISSUE TWO
COVER A

MEPHISTO